Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan To Address UN General Assembly

NC1510213695 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1639 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On October 21 President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan will leave for the USA to participate in a special session organized by the UN General Assembly on occasion of 50th Anniversary of the United Nations.

During his four-day visit Levon Ter-Petrosyan will meet with heads of delegations, participating in the session, as well as will have meetings with UN's officials.

On October 24 Levon Ter-Petrosyan is scheduled to make a speech at the special session of the UN General Assembly.

Figures Given on Russian Assumption of Debt

NC1510133295 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1638 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On October 11, National Assembly of Armenia ratified the Moscow agreement on external debts and assets of the former USSR signed between Armenia and Russian Federation on September 3, 1993. Under this agreement Russia assumes responsibility to pay off Armenia's share in USSR's external debt. As of December 1, 1991 Armenia's share in former USSR's external debt was equivalent to 590 mln USD. According to data provided by Paris Official Creditors Club, process of paying off the debt and interests should have started in 1992 in accordance with the following time-table (in millions of dollars):

Years	Sum to be paid off	Interests to be paid off
1992	145.3	39.3%
1993	122.1	40.5%
1994	147.1	39.4%
1995	135.3	29.1%

According to Armenian Finance Ministry, Armenia like other CIS countries is incapable of paying off these sums because of their great size. Russian Federation agreed to pay off these sums demanding in exchange that CIS countries refuse from assets of the former USSR abroad. Since there is certain difficulties in returning these assets, all republics of the former Soviet Union decided to give them up and concluded agreements with Russia, according to "zero variant".

If Armenia had refused from this agreement, in late 1995 it would have had to pay off 850 mln USD. Payment of interests and this debt would have constituted over 200 mln USD per year.

Armenian Finance Ministry emphasized that Armenia's current external debt does not exceed even 1/3 of the above-mentioned sum.

Visiting Iranian Minister Comments on Relations

NC1310183395 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 0530 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 13/10/95 NOYAN TAPAN — "In the course of 2500 years of our joint history favorable pre-requisites for restoration of ancient ties between Armenian and Iranian people have appeared again," Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Orientation Seyyed Mustafa Mirsalim said on October 12 press conference. The first significant manifestation of an agreement on cooperation in fields of culture, science and sport signed in 1994 is the opening of days of Iranian culture in Yerevan on October 11. According to Iranian minister, programs for cooperation of art critics, musicians, theatrical figures of the two countries are being worked out in order to expand cultural ties between the two countries. According to these programs, it is planned to shoot a joint film "Iran through eyes of Armenians, and Armenia through eyes of Iranians", to organize lectures by Armenian musicians in Iran, joint study of ancient manuscripts, translations of works of Armenian and Iranian writers etc. Mutual study of languages will promote reinforcement of ties between the two peoples. In connection with this, Iranian minister reported that Iran would assist those Armenian schools teaching Persian. It is known that Armenians of Iran have their own Armenian schools. Armenian language is taught at Iranian University.

According to Armenian Ministry of Culture Hakob Movsesi Hakobyan, Iran is the only country sponsoring

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restoration of Armenian churches for example churches of St. Fadey and St. Mortar Stepanos. "Blue Mosque is the only large Iranian memorial which was preserved even under conditions of mass termination of churches in the 30's" Hakob Movsesi said. Iranian Government allocates some 1 billion Iranian rials for capital restoration of the mosque. Restored mosque will become the center of Iranian culture in Yerevan.

Meets With Vice President

LD1510095995 Tehran IRNA in English 0818 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, Oct. 15, IRNA — Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mostafa Mirsalim here Saturday voiced Iran's readiness to establish ties between Muslim and Armenian clerics.

Currently in Armenia to attend the Iranian cultural week and to meet with Armenian officials, Mirsalim made the remark in a meeting with Armenian Vice-President Gagik Arutyunyan.

Referring to friendly relations between Muslims and their Armenian brothers in the Islamic Republic, he underlined the need to establish vast relations in the field of culture and tourism.

Arutyunyan, who is also the chairman of the joint commission, made mention of the positive consequences of Iran's cultural week in his country and expressed hope that the two countries would achieve great success in cultural and artistic affairs as well as in their tourism industries.

Iran's cultural week in Yerevan started last Wednesday with the holding of an exhibition displaying tourist attractions, handicrafts and traditional music.

Azerbaijan

President Promises Cease-Fire Observance in Karabakh

LD1210213795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 12 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Oct 12 (Interfax) — President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan has confirmed his country's determination to observe ceasefire "up to the complete settlement of the Karabakh conflict." He made this statement meeting in Baku the State Secretary for Matters of the Swiss Confederation Jakob Kellenberg.

Switzerland will take over chairmanship from Hungary in 1996 of the OSCE, which is mediating settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

The Azeri president said that Baku hopes for "achieving concrete results" at the next round of the Armenian-Azeri talks which is being held at the Aland Islands (Finland) under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group on Nagorno Karabakh.

"We hope that the Minsk Group will manage to achieve progress in the settlement process before the end of the year," said Aliyev.

For his part, Kellenberg said that Switzerland, recognizing the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, believes that the Azeri lands occupied by Armenians must be liberated.

IMF Plan for Economy Criticized as 'Scam'

MM1610094895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Oct 95 p 14

[Article by A. Vladikavkazskiy: "What It Would Mean If Sellers Outnumbered Buyers. Economic Crisis in Azerbaijan and How It Was Provoked by IMF Blockheadedness"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku — The model of economic renewal in Azerbaijan proposed by the IMF has been dubbed the "scam of the century" by independent economists. It is by no means a question of a turn of phrase; the specialists are working on the basis of realities — production has virtually ground to a halt in the country, with the possible exception of the still-functioning oil fields and a small number of plants and factories, and the population has been impoverished. And this is largely the consequence of the capriciousness of this not very compliant international organization.

The IMF program is simple but tough — spend what you earn and use your loans sensibly to modernize industry and the agrarian sector. By following the IMF's unquestioned demands, the government has reduced bank lending to a minimum and has not increased the minimum wage for 11 months. A kind of vicious circle has formed — because of the lack of lending to develop production, enterprises are standing idle and are not paying taxes to the treasury, which has left the government unable to pay pensions (its total debt is up to 70 billion manats) or salaries to workers at budget-sector organizations. In order to stop inflation running riot the dollar exchange rate has been artificially maintained — by selling petrodollars in the market. Bonuses and interim loans intended for other purposes have been used.

In order to explain the unenviable situation in which the country finds itself we need only recognize that it is hard to revive the economic administrative system

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